

[SIXTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY.]

MINUTES

OF THE

WARREN

Baptist Association,

HELD AT

NEW-BEDFORD,

On Wednesday and Thursday,

SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11, 1828.

Providence:

PRINTED BY H. H. BROWN.

.....
1828.

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APR 22 1926

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

MR. SHARPE'S SERMON.



H. H. Brown will put to press in a few days,

A Sermon delivered at the First Baptist Meeting-House, Providence, August 20, 1828, on occasion of the death of the Rev. STEPHEN GANO. By Rev. DANIEL SHARPE, Pastor of the Third Baptist Church in Boston.

For sale by said Brown, at his Office, No. 15, Market Square, a correct and striking **Likeness of Rev. Dr. Gano**, executed by one of the first Artists in this country. Price 50 cents.

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1828, ~~1834~~

Minutes, &c.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10.

1. Met at 10 o'clock in the first Congregational Church, which had been kindly offered for the use of the Association. An infinitely wise God having called home our venerable father, Dr. GANO, who was appointed to preach the introductory discourse, it was delivered by Br. John C. Welsh, from second Tim. ii. 12. "If we deny him, he also will deny us." After which a collection was taken up for the widows and children of deceased Baptist ministers, within the bounds of the Association, amounting to \$27 12.

2. Chose brethren David Benedict, Moderator, John O. Choules, Clerk, and Hugh H. Brown, Assistant Clerk. Prayer by the Moderator.

3. Appointed brethren Welsh, Putnam and Perry, with the authors, a committee to examine the Circular and Corresponding Letters, and report.

4. Appointed brethren Shurtliff, Welsh and Glover, a committee to distribute the money collected for the widows and children of deceased ministers.

5. Adjourned to 2 o'clock. Br. Putnam prayed.

6. Met agreeably to adjournment. Br. Bolles prayed.

7. Voted, That ministering brethren of other Baptist Associations be invited to sit and act with us in our present session.

8. Appointed brethren Phillips, Caswell, Briggs and Perry to read the letters from the churches.

9. Commenced a perusal of the letters from the churches and minuted the following account of members added by baptism and by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored and deceased, in the past year, and the existing numbers in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; licensed preachers in *Italics*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present; from churches marked thus, (†) we had no information this session; vacant churches are distinguished by a dash, (——) Res. the number restored.

ACCOUNT OF THE CHURCHES.

<i>Churches constituted.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Ad. by bap.</i>	<i>Ad. by let.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Warren§ 1764	JOHN C. WELSH James Driscoll Stephen Mason	8	5	9	5	2	208
2d Middleboro'	Dea. Caleb Tinkham						36
3d Middleboro' 1760	WILLIAM HUBBARD Dea. Elisha Clark Aberdeen Keith	3		4		5	183
Wrentham 1769			2			1	59
Attleborough 1769	WILLIAM PHILLIPS Dea. Silas Everett Benjamin Cargell	2			2		149
Medfield 1776	JOSEPH BALLARD, jun.	22	1	1	2	3	108
1st Providence 1639	ALEXIS CASWELL Dea. Joseph Martin Hugh H. Brown	3	10	15	5	7	491
West Bridgewater 1785	MATTHEW BOLLES Dea. Nathan Alger Philip E. Hill Alpheus Leach	2				1	60
1st Randolph 1780	SAMUEL GLOVER John May Johnson Talmon	2	1	1	1		47
1st Troy 1781	JOB BORDEN ARTHUR A. ROSS Dea. Enoch French William Ashley Robert Chappell	14	3		1	2	195
2d Newport 1656	JOHN O. CHOULES Robert Rogers Sandford Bell George C. Shaw Daniel C. Denham	Res. 145	12	3	2	12	323
Seekonk	David Brown			5	1	2	119
1st Taunton 1761						2	47

§ This church has dropped from their records the names of 17 members, who were non-residents, and who had neglected to hear the church and remove their standing. A good example.

<i>Churches constituted.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Ad. by bap.</i>	<i>Ad. by let.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
2d Providence 1805	Dea. Benj. W. Gardner Joseph Robinson Henry R. Greene		3	2	6		145
Pawtucket 1805	DAVID BENEDICT Dea. Ichabod Taber Dea. Remember Kent Charles Ripley	7	6	6	2	3	242
Warwick and } Coventry }	*JONATHAN WILSON Oliver Johnson	36	2	2			124
2d Tiverton 1808	ELBRIDGE GALE Dea. Benj. Hambly William Osborn	4			2		65
Pawtuxet 1805	FLAVEL SHURTLIFF <i>Res. 1</i> Christopher Sheldon Samuel W. Wightman	9			1		72
1st Bristol 1811							36
New-Bedford 1813	GIDEON B. PERRY Dea. Joseph Dunham James Tripp	8	10		1	1	221
Sharon 1814				3			53
North-Providence† 1818							†101
Foxborough† 1817	*WARREN BIRD						†74
2d Taunton	SILAS HALL Charles Washburn John S. Pierce	3	4			2	68
North Randolph 1819	BENJAMIN PUTNAM Jonathan Wales John Holbrook Samuel Fisher	14	1		3	1	112
Somerset† 1803							†42
Wickford† 1822							†25
Dighton	CALEB GREENE <i>Res. 7</i> David Witherell Cromwell Peck	3	1		1	1	93
<i>Total res.</i>		9	192	61	51	35	46 3498

† The total number in these churches is given the same as last year.

Total No. of Churches, 28; of Pastors, 18; nett decrease in the Association, since last year (one Church having been dismissed) 76.

10. Upon the recommendation of brother Putnam, it was agreed that the Association unite in solemn prayer to God, that the death of our revered fathers, GANO and BRIGGS, might be sanctified to the benefit of the associated churches. Prayer offered on this occasion by brother Putnam.

11. *Messengers and Minutes from Corresponding Associations.*

Associations.	Messengers.
Salem,	Leonard.
Hudson River,	Minutes.
Sturbridge,	Emmons.
Old Colony,	Grafton, Briggs, and Allen.
New-Haven and Hartford,	Seth Ewer.

12. Received the report of the committee to devise means whereby we may the better secure the efficient correspondence of sister associations with whom we maintain an intercourse.

The Committee appointed for the purpose of considering the 17th Article of last year, beg leave to report :—

1. That the corresponding letter be entirely dispensed with, and that the circular letter occupy all the space usually assigned to the two; that it be always written with ability and care, on some interesting subject, for the special benefit of the churches. In this way, many useful *tracts* may come into existence, and commence a wide, and long-continued circulation.

2. That we retain on our list of correspondence, no more Associations than we can actually correspond with, by the exchange of minutes and messengers; and that for the present, the number be reduced to those of Boston, Salem, Old Colony, Worcester, Sturbridge, Stonington, New-London, Hartford and New-Haven.

3. We recommend that all who take appointments as messengers, make it a business of fulfilling them, so that some certainty of calculation may be made in this department.

4. As a substitute for the reading of corresponding letters, we would recommend that during the session of the Association, some convenient portion of time be set apart, for free communications from our visiting brethren, on the state of religion in their communities and vicinities.

By the adoption of this course, we shall pay some attention, at least, to our brethren from abroad, which it is now often difficult to do; we shall probably learn much more of the progress of the gospel in their respective neighbourhoods, than we can possibly do, from what are now improperly denominated corresponding letters; and, on the whole, turn to an agreeable and profitable account, that item of our business, which now passes off, for the most part, in a most dull and unedifying manner.

DAVID BENEDICT,
SILAS HALL.

13. Voted, That the Clerk send a copy of our minutes to such Associations as we intend to drop.

14. *Messengers were appointed to the following Associations.*
 Boston, Ballard, Perry, Bolles.
 Salem, Bolles, Benedict, Choules, Perry, Phillips.
 Old Colony, Perry, Emmons.
 Worcester, Benedict, Bolles, Welsh.
 Sturbridge, Emmons.
 Stonington, Perry, Choules, Phillips.
 Hartford & N. Haven, Seth Ewer.

15. Appointed brethren Putnam, Ballard and Bolles, delegates to the Massachusetts Baptist State Convention.

Adjourned to 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by brother Borden.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11.

Met at 9 o'clock. Prayer by brother Choules.

16. Called upon messengers from other Associations, to afford an account of the state of religion in their respective bounds.—Several brethren gave interesting relations of God's dealings to various districts of the Church. The state of religion in Connecticut, especially, seemed to call forth peculiar joy and gratitude.

17. Received unanimously, the circular letter, written by brother Ballard—"On the duty of praying the Lord of the harvest, to send forth more labourers." And the corresponding letter, written by brother Phillips.

18. The Church at Middleborough, having requested the Association to afford them advice on their present difficulties, respecting their claims to disputed property: Voted, that the following brethren be a committee to visit the church—viz. Hall, Hubbard, Perry and French.

19. Voted, That the first Monday in January, be observed by our Churches, as a day of fasting and prayer, for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and increasing the number of gospel labourers.

20. Appointed the following officers of the Education Society, for the ensuing year, viz.

David Benedict, *Secretary*; Nathan Waterman, jun. *Treasurer*; Francis Wayland, jun. John O. Choules, Flavel Shurtliff, Silas Hall, William Phillips, John C. Welsh and Alexis Caswell, *Trustees*.

21. Voted, That we recommend all collections hereafter made by the churches, to be forwarded to the State Convention.

22. Voted, That this Association do concur in the resolution passed by the Hudson River Association, "That the time has arrived, when we should have some regularly constituted bond or centre of union, towards which, as a denomination, we might look. We do therefore, respectfully request the Baptist General Convention for Missionary purposes, to take into consideration at its meeting in Philadelphia, in April, 1829, the propriety of forming an American Baptist Convention, to assemble triennially, in a central part of the United States, and our Moderator is charged with the service of communicating to that body, the spirit of this resolution."

23. Called for monies for charitable and benevolent purposes, when the following sums were received :

For Foreign Missions.

Collection at the meeting-house, after sermon, by brother Leonard, for the Burman Mission,	\$1 88
From the Female Mite Society of Attleborough,	17 70
From Hannah Snow, Raynham,	50
	<hr/>
	\$32 08

For Domestic Missions.

From the Juvenile Domestic Missionary Society, New-Bedford,	\$16 00
From the Fem. Mite Soc. N Bedford, for the Western Dom. Mission,	20 00
From David Brown, Seekonk,	1 00
	<hr/>
	\$37 00

For widows and children of deceased Baptist Ministers.

Collection after Association Sermon,	\$27 12
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For Society for the relief of aged and distressed Ministers.

Collection after Sermon,	\$11 13
Annual payments of 24 members of the Society,	24 00
	<hr/>
	\$35 13

[Most of the money raised in this Association for charitable purposes, being now paid over to the Treasurer of the Rhode-Island Baptist State Convention, will account for the smallness of the amount now passing into the Treasury of the Association.]

24. Voted, That we hold our next Association with the first Baptist Church at Fall-River, on the second Wednesday in September, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

25. Voted, That the introductory sermon be preached by brother Silas Hall, and in the event of his failure, by brother G. B. Perry.

26. Voted, That brother David Benedict write the next circular letter to the churches.

27. Voted, That this Association recommend to the churches, the formation of Tract Societies, auxiliary to the Baptist General Tract Society, and if it be in their power, to constitute their pastors life-members or directors of the same.

28. Received the Report of the committee appointed to audit the account of the Treasurer of the Education Society.

29. Appointed brethren Benedict and Green a committee, to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

30. Voted, That this Association, convinced of the vast importance that the Lord's day should be sanctified to the ends and purposes for which it was instituted, and rejoiced that the Christian public have been directed to the subject, do recommend to the ministers of the churches, to urge the command, compliance with which, is so essential to the glory of God, and the happiness of man—"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

31. Voted, That this Association do feel the kindness of the Church and Society usually meeting in this house, in proffering us the use of their commodious building for our accommodation, and return them our grateful acknowledgments for their polite attention.

32. Adjourned *sine die*.

An address and prayer by the Moderator, terminated the session.

The Association was well attended, and it is believed much holy influence prevailed in our various meetings. In addition to the introductory sermon, discourses were delivered by brethren Choules, Leonard, Putnam and Bowen, to large and attentive congregations. The destitute state of the churches in Providence, excited deep sympathy. Many of the churches afforded an interesting account of their present state and prospects. The morning prayer meetings were solemn opportunities, and the belief is cherished, that this assembly of our churches has had the presence and blessing of Zion's God and King.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

The Ministers and Messengers of the WARREN ASSOCIATION, to the Churches which they represent, send Christian salutation.

BELOVED BRETHREN,

WE rejoice to learn that you still remain steadfast in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship. But we regret, and would feel deeply *humbled* before God, that there have been no greater accessions to our numbers during the past year.

It has been our custom to address you annually, on some subject, doctrinal, experimental or practical, as your circumstances seemed to require. Permit us, therefore, on this occasion, to invite your attention to the injunction of the Saviour: "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest; for the harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."* This injunction, brethren, we fear is too seldom remembered by us;—*too* seldom, in our closets, in our families, and in the house of God. By what considerations can we now urge upon you its importance and observance? Consider,

1. *The extent of the field.* "The field is the world." Notwithstanding all the efforts which have been made since the above command was given, much land still remains to be possessed.—*Vast* are the moral deserts which still lie altogether uncultivated; and many are the openings of a more interesting character.—"Say not, then, brethren, there are yet four months, and then cometh the harvest, behold I say unto you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to the harvest."†

But where are the labourers who under God are to cultivate these moral deserts, and gather in the harvest already ripe? They are few. "Pray ye, therefore, brethren, the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." What portions does our own country present, that are destitute of faithful, spiritual labourers! The Southern and Western States afford large and inviting openings for ministerial labour. From the Gulf

* Matth. ix. 37, 38. † John iv. 35.

of Mexico to Lake Superior, extensive regions may be traversed, especially in the wide and fertile valley of the Mississippi, without meeting a settled Christian minister, or a regularly constituted church. *These* openings are annually increasing, from the tide of population which is constantly flowing there from the Middle and Eastern States; and we often hear from the few of our brethren whose lots have been cast in these regions, the Macedonian cry, "Come over and help us." The harvest is great, but the labourers are few.

But to come still nearer home. If we survey that portion of the field which is occupied by our own denomination, the observance of the Saviour's command may still be enforced. At a moderate calculation, there are not less than *twelve hundred* churches of our own denomination in this country, which are destitute of pastors. These are famishing for want of the bread of life. The love of many is waxing cold, and the ways of Zion mourn. "Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest."

But consider, brethren,

2. *That God only can send forth faithful labourers.* The church is dependent on God, both for the increase of her ministers, and for those endowments, which will render them blessings to Zion and the world. God must call them by his Spirit. For no man taketh this honour to himself, but he that is called of God. When the Saviour *ascended* up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men; some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.* *And he must qualify them*, by communicating to them his grace; by clothing them with humility as with a garment; by imparting to them much of that wisdom which is from above, and by affording them in his providence such literary and theological advantages, as will enable them to speak as the oracles of God.

Consider,

* Eph. iv. 8, 11, 12.

3. *That the adversary is sending into the field men of a different character ; men, who have never felt the power of the gospel upon their own hearts—who have never discovered the excellencies of IMMANUEL, and who are consequently blind leaders of the blind. Men, who instead of subduing and cultivating these moral wastes, and gathering in the ripening harvest, are engaged in cultivating the thorn, the thistle and the tare, laying waste the vineyard of the Lord, and trampling upon the tender vine. Let the exertions of such men, brethren, excite us to greater efforts in the cause of Christ, and drive us more frequently and more fervently, to the Throne of Grace, that the Lord of the harvest would place in their stead labourers after his own heart.*

Consider,

4. *The increasing demand for faithful ministers.* Many of our fathers, who have long been successfully engaged in this good work, and who have borne the heat and burden of the day, are retiring from the field. Some are taken away by death. This brings fresh to our minds the late removal of two of our number to the land of silence : fathers BRIGGS and GANO are no more.—They have finished their course ;—they have kept the faith ;—they have gone home to enjoy with BALDWIN, and GAMMELL, and other departed worthies, the fruit of their labours. Others, though living, are unable to labour, for want of health.

Such being the fact, by whom are our twelve hundred destitute churches to be supplied ? Who are to convert our moral deserts into fruitful fields ? Where are those to be found who will go far into the east and preach the gospel to the perishing heathen ? Who will go to Africa ? Who to the frozen regions of the north ? But few, *very few*, present themselves, saying, “ Here am I, send me.”

But consider,

5. *The efficacy of prayer.* God has ordained prayer as one of the most efficient means, by which his church and the world are to be supplied with labourers. The prayer of faith has power with God. Need we pause here, brethren, to show that there is an efficacy in prayer ? Need we refer to the prayer of Elisha, which re-

stored life to the dead child ? To the prayer of Elias, which stayed the rain for three years and six months ? To the prayer of Joshua, which stopped the sun in its course ? Or to the prayer of the church for the deliverance of Peter from prison ? We have both seen and felt the efficacy of prayer. We repeat it, prayer is the most effectual means that can be used by the church, for sending forth to the harvest, spiritual labourers. Whatever other means may be used for replenishing the gospel field, they are used in vain, if used without prayer. Our Saviour, we believe, viewed prayer on this subject, of the first importance, from the fact that he often urged it upon his disciples.

We have already observed, that it is the destitute state of our churches, through the country, that has directed our attention to this subject, as appropriate for our present circular. Such being the fact, and such the efficacy of prayer, it may not, perhaps, be improper here to suggest to the churches of this Association the propriety of observing a special season for prayer to the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.

But prayer, brethren, is not the only means which we are to use in promoting this object. The church is required to know the gifts which she possesses, to call them forth at all suitable times, for their own improvement, and the edification of the body ; taking heed that she despise not the day of small things. He that is faithful over little, shall be made ruler over much. A course of this kind, will enable every church to know and to bring forward her best gifts, and suffer no one to bury his talent in the earth. The time has arrived, when our destitute churches are anxious to obtain for pastors, not only pious and active men, but men of learning. In order, therefore, that such may be obtained, we must with our prayers, contribute of our earthly substance for the support of those already called of God and approbated by the churches, while pursuing studies preparatory to this great work, which preparation is necessary at this day, to render them able and successful ministers of the New Testament—*men* that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. There is, then, something for each one to do in promoting the important object before us—the sending forth of labourers into the harvest.

Perhaps, however, the scarcity of ministers is not the only cause why there are so many churches in our connexion, destitute of pastors. Would such churches be supplied with pious and successful ministers, then let them make provision for their temporal support : the labourer is worthy of his hire.* “ Even so hath God ordained, that they who preach the gospel, should live of the gospel.” Would the churches long retain the labours of such men ? Then be careful, brethren, to honour them that labour among you in the Lord—to know their *works*, and esteem them very highly in love for their works’ sake ; and be at peace among yourselves.† Comfort them by your sympathies, encourage them by your prayers, and aid them by your friendly counsel ; so, bearing one another’s burdens, fulfill the law of Christ.

* 1 Cor. iv. 14. † 1 Thess. v. 12. 13.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

The WARREN ASSOCIATION, to the Associations with which we correspond, greeting.

BELOVED BRETHREN—We are again favoured with the privilege of addressing you. Some of the Churches in this Association have enjoyed refreshing seasons since our last, and the tidings from them have been cheering. But clouds of darkness hang over others. We can sing of mercies and judgments.

Death has again been among us, and removed our fathers, BRIGGS and GANO, from this world of tribulation, and given them a sweet repose in the embraces of their Redeemer. By their death, the cause of religion in this Association, has sustained a severe loss, which we all sensibly feel and deeply deplore. Their patriarchal virtues endeared them to us all; and on their memory, we and thousands of others, will ever dwell with delight. They both died as they lived.

Let our united prayer ascend to the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers to fill up the breaches which are made, by the removal of some from their labour on earth, to their rest in heaven.

Dear Brethren—"Contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints," and our prayers shall attend you, and that we may be successful in the same lawful contention, we humbly solicit yours.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Association:

DAVID BENEDICT, *Moderator.*

JOHN OVERTON CHOULES, *Clerk.*

RHODE-ISLAND BAPTIST STATE CONVENTION.



The third anniversary of this body was holden in Providence June 18, 1828. In the absence of the President and Secretary, Rev. D. Benedict was called to the chair, and Rev. J. C. Welsh was appointed Secretary of the meeting. The officers elected for the ensuing year, were as follow, viz.

Stephen Gano, *President*; James N. Seaman, *Secretary*; David Benedict, *Treasurer*. Francis Wayland, jun. John C. Welsh, John O. Choules, Elbridge Gale, Ray Potter, Romeo Elton, Nathan Waterman, jun. John B. Barton, Robert Rogers, Henry Marchant, H. H. Brown, *Managers*.

The Treasurer's Report was as follows :

1827.	Balance of old account,	-	-	-	-	\$ 214 43
Aug. 23.	By cash of O. Starkweather, Pawtucket, for Burman mission,					10 00
Sept. 27.	Do. from H. H. Brown, Treas. of Warren Association, collected for missionary purposes, at the last session of that body,					73 95
1828.						
Feb. 25.	Do. dividends on the Judge Taber legacy,	-	-	-	-	108 00
April 9.	Do. by the hand of J. N. Seaman, collected at monthly prayer meetings in the Second Church in Providence,	-	-	-	-	5 90
June 18.	Do. do. J. O. Choules, collected in the same manner, in the Second Church, in Newport,	-	-	-	-	10 00
	Do. from various subscribers in Providence,	-	-	-	-	70 00
	Do. from Female Mite Society for Domestic Missions,	-	-	-	-	51 00
	Do. from Female Society for Foreign Missions,	-	-	-	-	42 25
						<hr/>
						163 25 163 25
	Do. from Pawtucket Miss. Soc. for Foreign Missions,	-	-	-	-	60 00
	Do. Female ditto,	-	-	-	-	11 00
	Monthly prayer meeting collections,	-	-	-	-	7 02
	Collection after a Sermon by Rev. Mr. Davis,	-	-	-	-	5 00
						<hr/>
						83 02 83 02
	Do. by Mr. Welsh, from the Warren Fem. Mite Soc. to be equally divided between the F. and D. Missions,	-	-	-	-	25 00
	Do. from the Mission box, for Foreign Missions,	-	-	-	-	6 28
	For Domestic ditto,	-	-	-	-	3 03
	Donations, from J. C. Welsh,	-	-	-	-	1 00
	From four young ladies in one family,	-	-	-	-	4 00
	From one in another family,	-	-	-	-	25
	Enclosed in a letter through the Post-Office,	-	-	-	-	1 00
	From a Friend,	-	-	-	-	1 00
						<hr/>
						41 56 41 56
	Subscription obtained by C. Weaver, in church in War'k & Cov'y,					17 00
						<hr/>
						\$ 727 11

. A part of the foregoing funds were obtained by the Rev. Mr. Davis, of S. Reading, during his recent visit to this region.

APPROPRIATIONS BY THE CONVENTION.

Cost of the R. I. Rel. Messenger over and above its receipts,	163 50
Wages and expenses of C. S. Weaver, agent of the Convention, from Dec. 4, 1827, to the meeting of the same, about 6½ mos.	172 00
Paid the Richmond church, to assist in supporting their minister,	50 00
Carlile & Co.'s bill for advertising,	1 00
Expenses of transacting business respecting Judge Taber's legacy,	11 95
To the Treasurer of the Baptist General Convention,	300 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 698 45
	<hr/>
Cash on hand,	\$ 28 06

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1834

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[*Sixty-seventh Anniversary.*]

MINUTES

OF THE

WARREN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD AT THE

BAPTIST MEETING-HOUSE

THE LIBRARY OF THE

APR 22 1926

IN

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

NEW-BEDFORD,

ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,

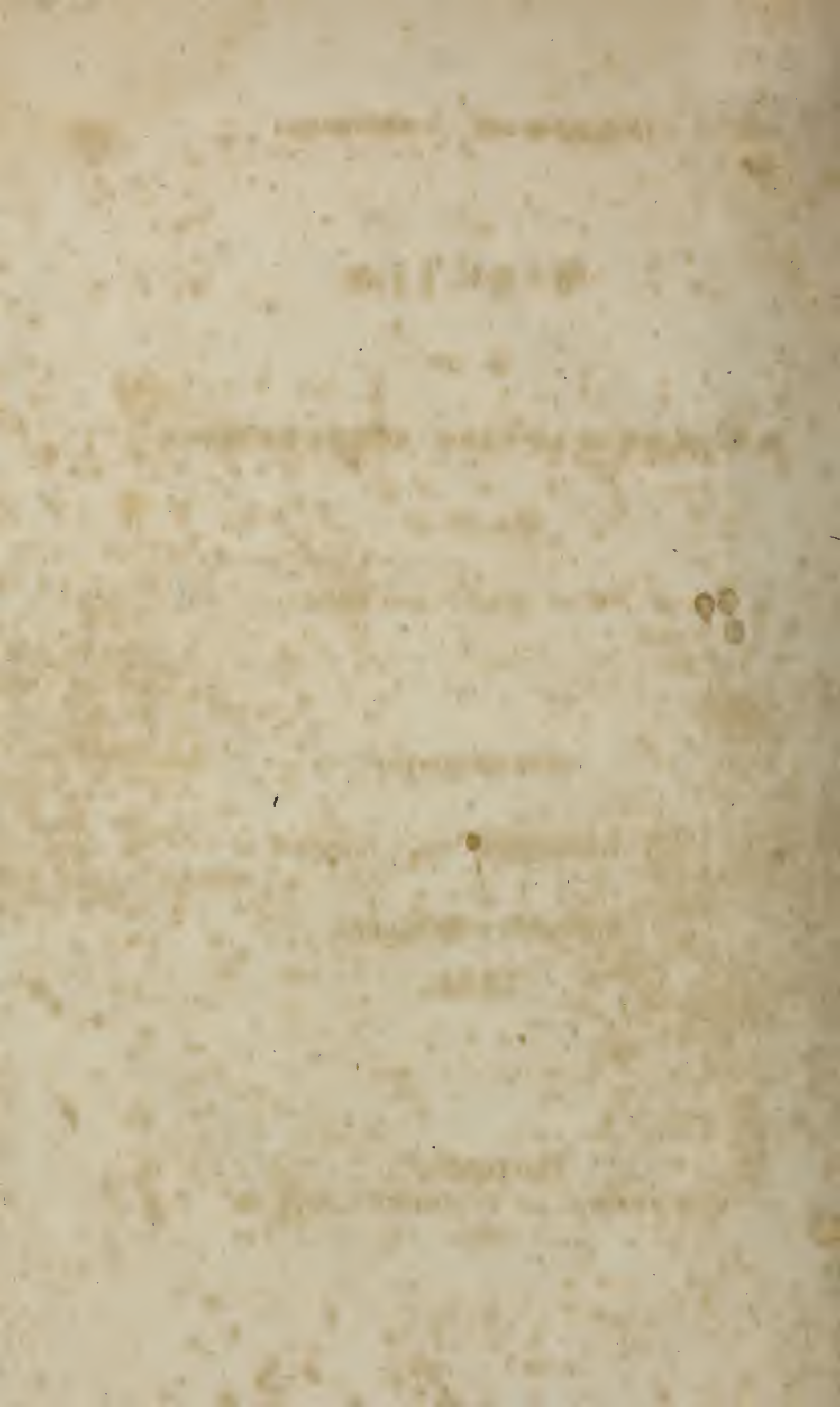
September 10 and 11,

1834.

PROVIDENCE:

H. H. BROWN...NO. 25, MARKET-SQUARE.

1834.



8 Mar 28 Krueger

286

B22 mass

1834

MINUTES.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10.

1. The Association met with the Baptist church of New-Bedford, (Mass.) At 10 o'clock, the introductory sermon was preached by brother John O. Choules, from I. Philip. i. 27: *Stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.* A collection was taken up at the close of the sermon, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of deceased Baptist ministers formerly in connexion with the Association, amounting to \$29 08.

2. The Association was organized by appointing brother William Phillips, Moderator; bro. J. Dowling, Clerk; and bro. H. H. Brown, assistant Clerk. Adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock. Prayer by the Moderator.

3. Met pursuant to adjournment. Prayer by bro. J. C. Welsh.

4. The usual invitation was given to ministers and other brethren present to take a seat with us and assist in our deliberations.—Whereupon the following took their seats:

Bro. Seth Ewer, from Barnstable Association.

" E. C. Messenger, from Old Colony do.

" Ebenezer Briggs, " " " "

" Ebenezer Thresher, from Nor. Baptist Education Society.

" David Benedict, from Boston Association.

" Lucius Bolles, from Bap. Board of Foreign Missions.

" Peter Simonson, from Fourth Baptist church, Providence.

" — Purkitt, Agent of the Mass. S. S. Union.

" Benj. M. Hill, from Hudson River Association.

5. Voted, that the letters to the Association be read by the ministers of the churches, when present, and in other cases by the Clerk of the Association.

6. Proceeded to a perusal of the letters from the churches, and took the following account of members added by baptism and by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored, dropped and deceased, in the past year, and the existing numbers in each church.

N. B. The names of ordained ministers are in SMALL CAPITALS; licensed preachers in *Italics*. Those ministers with this mark (*) were not present; from churches marked thus (†) we had no information this session; vacant churches are distinguished by a dash. (—)

Account of the Churches.

<i>Churches constituted.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Dropped.</i>	<i>Restored.</i>	<i>Add. by bap.</i>	<i>Add. by letter.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Warren 1764	JOHN C. WELSH Dea. Stillman Welsh Allen Munroe Daniel Wightman		6	48	4	2	1	5	252
West-Wrentham 1769	JOHN S. WHITE Nathan Aldrich Jesse Miller				1		1		71
Attleborough 1768	*JONATHAN FORBUSH			3		1	1	3	155
1st Providence 1639	R. EVERETT PATTISON Henry P. Yeomans George Hail H. H. Brown		41	9	21	2	16		544
Fall River 1781 (formerly 1st Troy)	A. BRONSON SHUBAEL LOVELL Dea. S. L. French J. C. Boomer P. Smith E. Smith	21	52	15			6	2	302
2d Newport 1656	JOHN DOWLING Dea. Sandford Bell Benjamin Marsh Cyrus Barker Messer Gammell George C. Shaw .	1	11	6	6			9	334
Seekonk 1794	HENRY CLARK Viall Medbury Samuel Allen Ephraim Ide		2	53	13	3	1	2	191
1st Taunton 1761	<hr/> Henry C. Coombs							4	28
2d Providence 1805	*PHARCELLUS CHURCH Dea. Jonas R. Gale Edward K. Fuller Samuel Hunt William Moore		12	6	17	1	4		250
Pawtucket 1805	<hr/> JOHN BLAIN Dea. Remember Kent J. Hood Bosworth Walker Comfort Barrows	2	26	25	17	3	5		323
Warwick and } Coventry }	*ARTHUR A. ROSS William Green	1	12	5	8	2	1		292
1805									
2d Tiverton	<hr/> Dea. Benjamin Hambly Joseph Osborn Charles Hambly		4	2			1		60

<i>Churches constituted.</i>	<i>Elders and Messengers.</i>	<i>Dropped.</i>	<i>Restored.</i>	<i>Add. by bap.</i>	<i>Add. by let.</i>	<i>Dismissed.</i>	<i>Excluded.</i>	<i>Died.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Pawtuxet 1805	Charles H. Pendleton			1	1	2		1	87
1st Bristol 1811					1	4	6		45
New-Bedford 1813	JOHN O. CHOULES Dea. Peleg Butts Dea. James Tripp Nehemiah Leonard Luther Hewins James Cannon John Coggeshall, jun.			52	15	4	3	1	311
Sharon 1814	JOSEPH M. DRIVER Dea. L. Hewins			5	1		3	2	93
2d Taunton	WILLIAM G. TRASK Dea. C. Woodward Loring Lincoln John S. Peirce				1	1	2		91
Somerset 1803	ELISHA SLADE Dea. Ebenezer Pierce	1			1	1	1	1	50
Dighton	JOHN READ Cromwell Peck Seth Talbot	2		1		4	8	2	79
3d Providence 1821	WILLIAM PHILLIPS Naphthali Newhall Benjamin Cornell Thomas G. Northup			10	6	2	3	1	177
Arkwright and } Fiskeville }				26	1	4		1	74
1829									
Cumberland Hill 1831	Christopher C. Dexter					5	1		49
Dartmouth 1831	CALEB BENSON			6				1	36
Nor. Providence 1818	† [Not represented.]								31
Valley Falls 1832	Henry Marchant			23	14	1	1		58
Woonsocket Falls 1833				4	5	3		1	15
Wickford 1834	*BENJAMIN C. GRAFTON Alfred B. Chadsey			2					17
New-Shoreham 1780	JOHN DILL Dea. Simon Dodge			4			2		124
<i>Total</i>		21	15	396	132	105	48	63	4139

The two last churches were received the present year. Total No. of churches, 28; of Pastors, 17. Net increase of the Association during the year, 426.

7. Letters were then read from the Baptist church in Wickford, R. I. and the church in New-Shoreham, B. I. requesting admission to the Association.

8. Voted, that brethren Blain, Bronson and Slade be a committee to consider on their application.

9. Brethren Welsh, Dowling, Choules and Driver were appointed to distribute the funds raised for the widows and orphans of deceased ministers.

10. Voted, that brethren Coggeshall and Marchant be a committee to audit the account of the Treasurer of the Education Society.

11. Voted a recess of ten minutes.

12. On resuming business, appointed the following brethren as delegates to other Associations.

<i>Boston,</i>	Br. Grafton, Blain, Choules
<i>Salem,</i>	Driver
<i>Worcester,</i>	Pattison
<i>Sturbridge,</i>	Slade
<i>Hudson River,</i>	Choules, Dowling, Clark
<i>Hartford,</i>	
<i>New-Haven,</i>	
<i>Stonington,</i>	Clark, Marchant
<i>Old Colony,</i>	Clark, Choules, Driver
<i>Mass. State Convention,</i>	Driver, Trask, Clark

13. The Clerks were appointed to examine the Minutes of Corresponding Associations.*

14. Voted, that bro. Purkitt, Agent of the Mass. S. S. Union, and bro. Pattison, on behalf of the Depository of the Amer. S. S. Union in Providence, be on the ensuing day respectively permitted to address us on behalf of those institutions.

Adjourned till nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Bro. Bronson prayed.

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 11.

Met agreeably to adjournment. Prayer by brother Slade.

15. The committee on the application of the churches of Wickford and New-Shoreham, for admission into this Association, reported favorably; and the Moderator, on behalf of the Association, presented the right hand of fellowship to the delegates appointed by their respective churches to receive it.

16. Voted, that the Clerks be appointed to make out from the letters a summary view of the state of the churches, for publication in the Minutes.

* This has been done, and the committee would report that on examining the few Minutes which have been received, they find the additions by baptism have generally been small, and they do not observe any thing worthy of special notice.

17. The First Church in Providence having invited the Association to hold its next session with them, voted, that the invitation be accepted.

18. Voted, That the first Monday in January next be recommended to be observed as a day of fasting and prayer.

19. The church at Sharon having requested to be dismissed to the Old Colony Association, Resolved, that their request be granted.

20. Resolved, that brother Dowling write the Circular letter for next year, and brother Clark in case of failure.

21. Resolved, that brother Wayland preach the introductory sermon, and brother Bronson in case of failure.

22. Resolved, that this Association cherish an affectionate remembrance of Deacon Joseph Martin, of the First church in Providence, who has deceased since the last meeting of this body, and who had been appointed Messenger to this Association for upwards of thirty years in succession, and that we sympathize with the church, and his connexions and friends, in the loss they have sustained.

23. It having been stated that by the death of Dea. Martin it became desirable to appoint some one to receive the funds belonging to the Society for the relief of aged and superannuated ministers in the Association, of which he was Treasurer, it was voted that brother H. H. Brown, the Treasurer of the Association, be authorized to receive said funds and to invest them.

24. Reports unfavorable to the character of Mr. John S. Thompson, formerly a Universalist preacher, but who now professes to have embraced the sentiments of the Baptist denomination, being in circulation, Voted, that the Moderator and Clerk be a committee to investigate the subject, and to make such report, either through the Christian Watchman, or some other medium, as they in their discretion may deem best.

25. Voted to adjourn till 2 o'clock, P. M. after which a sermon was preached by brother John Blain, from Rev. xx. 11, 12.

2 o'clock, P. M.

26. Met agreeably to adjournment. Brother Lovell prayed.

27. Remarks respecting the Mass. S. S. Union were made by the Agent, bro. Purkitt.

28. Bro. Pattison, after some remarks in favor of sustaining the Depository of the American S. S. Union, recently established in Providence, presented the following resolution:

Whereas the American S. S. Union, in connexion with the Rhode-Island S. S. Union, have recently established in Providence a Depository of books, containing all the publications of the American S. S. Union, together with such other suitable books for Sunday School libraries as have been approved by said Union, and which are sold at the same low prices at which they can be purchased at their Depositories in Philadelphia and New-York:

Therefore, Resolved, That it be recommended to the Churches and Sunday Schools connected with this Association, to supply their Libraries from the said Depository, as far as their convenience will permit, and thus to second the liberality and zeal of these Unions, in carrying forward the great cause of Sunday Schools.

Passed unanimously.

29. Bro. Purkitt presented the following resolution, accompanied by some remarks:

Whereas the present pecuniary embarrassments of the Mass. S. S. Union are such as to prevent in a great measure, the good which such an important institution ought to accomplish. Therefore,

Resolved, That the churches in Massachusetts belonging to the Warren Association, take some *immediate and efficient* measures to raise the sum of dollars, to aid the operations of the Union.

Resolved, That two or more ministers be appointed by those churches, to prepare and preach on the subject of S. School and Bible Class instruction, for the purpose of awakening deeper interest, and of suggesting plans of operation; and that it be understood the individuals so appointed may be called upon by the churches, in the way of exchange, to enforce the interests of Sabbath Schools, the *duty* of sustaining the Depository of the Mass. S. S. Union, and to collect the sums appropriated by the churches, for the purpose of carrying the preceding resolution into effect.

Resolved, That the S. S. Treasury, designed for the benefit of parents, S. S. teachers and scholars, is a *very valuable work*, and deserving an extensive circulation in all our churches.

Passed unanimously.

30. Voted, that brethren Choules and Trask be a committee to confer upon the resolution offered by bro. Purkitt.

31. The Circular letter for the present year not having been prepared by bro. Wayland, who had been appointed by the Association to write it, the Moderator and bro. Pattison were appointed a committee to confer with bro. W. on the subject, and to examine the letter, should it be prepared in season for insertion in the Minutes.

32. Proceeded to the business of the Education Society.

33. The committee appointed to audit the account of the Treasurer, reported the same to be correct.

The annual report of the Secretary, bro. Caswell, was read and accepted, after remarks by brethren Thresher and Pattison. The Treasurer's report was read and accepted.

34. Proceeded to the choice of officers.

A. CASWELL, *Secretary.*

N. WATERMAN, jun. *Treasurer.*

Executive Committee.

F. WAYLAND, jun.

J. O. CHOULES,

D. BENEDICT,

J. C. WELSH,

R. E. PATTISON,

W. PHILLIPS.

P. SIMONSON,

35. The Association listened to an address on the subject of missions, from the Secretary of the Baptist Board of Foreign Missions.

36. Adjourned to meet with the First Church in Providence, on the 2d Wednesday of Sept. 1835.

After the business of the Association was completed, a sermon was preached by bro. Thresher, after which the Lord's supper was administered by brethren Bolles and Benedict.

Prayer meetings were held early on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and a spirit of fervent supplication was manifested; there was also preaching on the evenings of those days. The interesting services of the session were closed by prayer by the Moderator, for the divine blessing on the Association, and on the friends who had so kindly received and entertained us.

WM. PHILLIPS, *Moderator.*

JOHN DOWLING, }
H. H. BROWN, } *Clerks.*

Tabular Statement

Of Sabbath Schools in the Warren Association.

The following, being prepared from scanty materials, is necessarily incomplete. It is hoped that in future, more minute returns may be made in the letters, respecting the important interests of the Sabbath School cause.

	<i>Bible Classes.</i>	<i>No. of teachers.</i>	<i>No. of scholars.</i>	<i>Vols. in Library.</i>
Warren church (no statistics furnished—see extract from their letter, page 12)				
Wrentham (same)	3			
Attleborough (including an infant school)	1	24	153	261
First Providence,	6	42	420	700
Fall River (reports their School as large and interesting)				
Second Newport (school connected with Newport Union)	2			
Seekonk (two schools)	1	14	110	270
First Taunton (in connexion with the Freewill Baptists)	1		50	100
Second Providence (Sabbath and infant schools flourishing)				
Pawtucket,		33	297	506
Warwick and Coventry (two schools, generally supplied with teachers, and well supplied with books)				
Pawtuxet,	2	19	140	160
Sharon (Bible Class and S. School flourishing)				
Second Taunton (school encouraging, though small)				
Somerset,		12	75	
Dighton,		10	60	
Third Providence,		27	161	384
Arkwright and Fiskeville (sixteen teachers and scholars have united with the church)			80	
Cumberland Hill,	1	27	180	262
Dartmouth,		10	50	100
Valley Falls,	1	18	117	233

Account of Monies.

As nearly all the funds now raised in the churches of this body for benevolent objects are paid over to the Treasurers of the Mass. Baptist Convention and of the R. I. Baptist State Convention, it will account for the small amount now received at the annual meetings of the Association.

Amount of collection for widows, after sermon by bro. Choulès,		\$29 02
Do.	do. Burman mission,	21 02
		<hr/>
		\$50 10

ABSTRACT FROM THE LETTERS.

WARREN.—This church has been greatly blest during the past year. The following extracts from their letter cannot fail to be read with interest:

“We have abundant occasion to record the great goodness of the Lord, towards us the past season. As autumn and winter of the last year approached, signs of spiritual life became more apparent among our members. Religious meetings were multiplied, and were numerous attended. The Almighty began to work systematically among us. First of all, some aged disciples were blessed with refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and they called mightily upon God, to arise and have mercy upon Zion.

“Dec. 12 our pastor attended the protracted meeting at Seekonk, and came home refreshed in soul, and encouraged in duty. Subsequently others caught the holy flame, and began to bestir themselves in the good cause. Meetings became peculiarly solemn and delightful. The first Monday in January will long be remembered, as *a day of great things* among us. The morning meeting was truly a melting season, and each succeeding one evinced that God was with us of a truth. Christians humbly confessed their faults one to another: backsliders, with broken hearts, returned, bringing forth fruits meet for repentance; and the work extended to the hearts of many, previously dead in trespasses and sins. It was the still small voice of the Spirit, at times filling the places of our assembly and working wonders. The eldest Christians said, “We never saw it *thus*, to this extent before.” The town seemed shaken from centre to circumference. Christians were now ready freely to converse upon eternal interests, in the house and by the way, and the unconverted had ears to hear them. Christians *felt* that God *only* can regenerate the heart; hence they rested not in means, but trusted alone in Him who gives them their efficiency, and “unto Him” made their common supplication.

“Thus the way was prepared for God to be honored in the soul’s salvation, and He was ready to secure his own glory. Hearts hardened as the nether millstone were made to relent. Individuals, who, to use their own phraseology, had grown grey in sin; others in the meridian of life, although much engrossed with its busy cares, and many of the dear youth, in all the freshness of the spring of life, were awakened from their infatuated slumbers, and made to feel the rights of God, and their own eternal interests. Scores in succession bowed submissively to Jesus. Daily expectation, to see new trophies of victorious grace, was not, for some weeks, disappointed. Each religious community in town shared in the inestimable blessing. Joy was undoubtedly felt in heaven, and we found also joy on earth, *joy unspeakable*, and full of glory. It was, indeed, a foretaste of heaven, to pass around, from house to house, among the converts and the quickened, enjoy the fellowship of the saints, converse, and sing and pray. The mouths of gainsayers were stopped; all excesses and extravagancies were avoided; perfect order was maintained; and few, if any, denied that it was truly the work of God. The gospel preached, and the efforts of pastor and people in the private walks of life, resulted in the greatest good to souls. The Bible Class, and Sabbath School, participated in the rich blessing. God raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places.

“To detail particular cases would extend our letter to an unreasonable length. —We will only say, they were nearly all marked and decided in their character. A few were very sudden in the process, but generally the subjects passed wearisome days and sleepless nights before their hearts yielded to mercy’s sceptre.—When this took place, they generally had good evidence of the change, and corresponding enjoyment. Our meetings, to hear relation of experience, were truly glorious. God was exalted: The name of Jesus, was “*as ointment poured forth*,” and the Holy Spirit was honored indeed. The Lord saw fit, as usual, to honor *his own ordinance*, baptism, as the answer of a good conscience in the candidate, and a source of great good to beholders. Of the former, tongue cannot describe the joy they felt in being thus buried with Christ, their common Lord. While the pastor was immersing a number, principally blooming youth, on Lord’s day, 23d March, a beautiful white bird hovered o’er us, as if an interest-

ed spectator, reminding us of that *glorious moment* when the church's Head gave us *the example* in Jordan, and the Father, by the heavenly dove, and solemn voice, gave sanction to the deed. We said, and sang,

“Heav'n owned the deed, approved the way,
And bless'd the place where Jesus lay.”

“Impressions, resulting in conversion, were made at the water's side, upon hearts that never felt before. The admission of members also, in the great congregation, by presenting the hand of fellowship, and personal addresses, had a *deep and melting influence* upon spectators. As the work progressed, our hearts were comforted, *especially* being knit together in love. The deacons and members of the church so happily co-operated with the pastor, that, being mutual helpers, they were also enabled mutually to rejoice, while sharing in the work. The senior deacon had the happiness of seeing all his children, three daughters, as is hoped, converted unto God. The junior deacon had the privilege of witnessing the addition of two sons and two daughters to the church. In a religious view, a *great change* has been produced in our village. Old associations, upon worldly principles, have given place to those of a holy nature. Many, who lately were pursuing the vanities of the world, have turned, have asked the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward, and *now say*, and act upon the principle, “I have loved the habitation of God's house, and the place where his honor dwelleth.” As the weeks roll round, each successive meeting evinces that God's Spirit remaineth among us, if not to regenerate the ungodly, to sanctify and comfort his people.”

After mentioning the choice of two new deacons, the letter says: “Permit us also here to say, that a Female Seminary, *of the highest order*, has been established in Warren, under the care of Mr. Robert A. Coffin, and lady, recently of the New Ipswich institution, N. H., assisted by other well qualified teachers.—Its prospect of success and usefulness, is *very promising*. It is decidedly moral and religious in its influence, and we think it will secure to itself extensive patronage. Every thing desirable, it is thought, unites to recommend this as the *very place* for such an institution. A very large and most eligibly situated house has been purchased, and will be soon fitted for its accommodation. We beg your prayers that this new fountain of science, in the very *heart* of the Association, may be made also a nursery of piety.”

WRENTHAM.—This church, which was last year destitute of a Pastor, now enjoys the labors of Rev. John S. White, and their prospects are much improved since that time. They say, “Since we have been again favored with the stated public ministrations of the gospel, we have enjoyed a good degree of union, and have felt the Lord to be good in remembering us in our low and disconsolate state. At present our meetings on the Sabbath are well attended. We have an interesting and flourishing Sabbath School. Most of the church are embodied in this institution. We have established three Bible Classes in different parts of the society, which are attended with some interest.

“The Temperance cause with us is gaining ground. Our Society, which was formed about one year since, is flourishing, and numbers about 140 members. We are enabled, with a few exceptions, to subscribe ourselves a *Temperance* church. In this cause we take a deep interest, and we hope the time is not far distant when all our members will not only be *temperate*, but *Temperance* members, *active* in the cause. We are generally established in the great doctrines of the Bible, and are contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.”

ATTLEBOROUGH.—Church in a low and languishing condition. The ladies of the church and congregation have raised 50 dollars during the year for religious objects.

FIRST PROVIDENCE.—Although they have not enjoyed an extensive revival the past year, yet the additions have been considerable, and many of them heads of families. The number of deaths, it will also be seen, is larger than that of any former year, and several of them highly useful and valuable members. We make the following extracts from their letter:

“Cherishing as we do, an unwavering attachment to the doctrines and principles received by this Association from the very first, we feel ourselves established and built up in the most holy faith.

"Our beloved brother, Joseph Martin, who had for many years used the office of a Deacon well, and whom we have been almost uniformly accustomed to meet on these anniversary seasons, and to witness his prayers and his untiring labors for the prosperity of the cause of Christ, and of whom (in reference to this Association) it may be said, his praise is in all the churches, has been called the past year from his labors on earth, to reap the rewards of grace in heaven.

"Our contributions for the cause of missions, foreign and domestic, and for other religious and charitable objects, have not, we believe, fallen short of those of former years.

"Brethren, we live in an eventful age: an age in which, by the instrumentality of the disciples of Christ, the gospel is taking a wider range; and in which faith seems to anticipate the fulfilment of those promises, which ensure the spread of the gospel over the whole of this benighted and fallen world.

"Permit us affectionately, brethren, to express our conviction, that the churches in this Association are not yet duly sensible of the obligations under which they are laid by these considerations. Our Saviour has said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive;" and an apostle, "God loves the cheerful giver." Who has been made the poorer for giving liberally for such an object? or who the richer for withholding?

But were it so. Shall the possession of a little of the mammon of this world be set over against the blessing of God, and the love of God? Besides, the benevolence and love that excite to the discharge of such a duty, feed their own fires; our own hearts are enlarged, our graces are increased and strengthened, we are "changed into the image of the heavenly," and thus by these *means* are we made meet for "glory, and honor, and immortality."

FALL RIVER.—This church has enjoyed a season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Their letter remarks, "The subjects of renewing grace have in general been deeply convicted of sin, in view of God's holy law—and while ready to sink under the burden of their guilt, their cry hath been, "God be merciful to us sinners." They have learned by their own experience as well as from the Bible, that by grace we are saved. With a *calm determination*, (usually evinced by *mature* and *warm-hearted* Christians) they have taken hold of those duties involved in a profession of religion, manifesting a desire to bind their *very souls* as with cords to the throne of Jehovah's altar.

"At each of our last fifteen *successive* communions, some have been added to our number, such (we hope) as shall be saved. To God be all the glory.—The principles and practice of Temperance prevail universally in the church."

SECOND NEWPORT.—"In giving you a statement of our present situation as a church, we feel that we have reason for deep humiliation, for fervent and adoring gratitude, and for delightful and cheering hope. We confess, dear brethren, that our personal exertions to extend the kingdom of Christ, have been far below the standard of our duty and the measure of our obligation. While we would for this, as a church, exercise deep humiliation before God, we feel that we have abundant reason to rejoice that he has not suffered us to be brought low through affliction and sorrow. God has mercifully sent us a pastor in whom we are cordially united. Our public worship is fully attended by congregations generally attentive and solemn. Our conference meetings are fully attended and well sustained."

SEEKONK.—On this church, also, have 'showers of heavenly rain' descended during the past year. Rev. Henry Clark was ordained as their Pastor the 25th of June last, and his labors have been blest' Although the revival appears to have subsided, they state, "We are in a pleasant, harmonious condition, but very much need the return of by-gone days."

FIRST TAUNTON.—In rather a depressed condition. They state, "We are at present well united, having fellowship one with another; and although faint, yet we are pursuing. Our meetings during the summer have been well attended and solemn. We have obtained the labors of bro. Henry C. Coombs, a licentiate, for one half of the time. He has been successful in collecting an interesting Bible Class, and we believe has tried to do us good."

SECOND PROVIDENCE.—Nothing particularly interesting; they are now destitute of a Pastor, but have a prospect of soon obtaining one. "Although we have not been favored with any marked display of God's power among us, yet

we have from time to time been cheered with pleasing indications that the Great Head of the church still recognizes this branch of his Zion as a vine planted and sustained by his own right hand. As a church we remain unshaken with regard to the cardinal doctrines of the gospel, as they are received and acknowledged by your body."

PAWTUCKET.—This church, which has for some months past enjoyed the labors of Rev. John Blain, is now supplied by Rev. Mr. Spalding. They say, "The Lord has enabled us to do something in the cause of benevolence. Our Sunday School is large and interesting. A number have been made to rejoice in hope, since the commencement of the year. We are still doing something in the cause of temperance and moral reform. More than two millions of poor slaves in our land, deprived, in a great measure, of moral and intellectual improvement, and oppressed with a heavy and cruel hand, have not been entirely forgotten in our prayers and alms before God. We have cast our mites into the Lord's treasury for foreign and home missions, for Sunday Schools, Tract Societies, &c.; in all about \$350.

"But while the Lord has blessed us and enabled us to do something for others, we have to notice some things which make us sorrowful. We have occasion to mourn over the decline of zeal and holy love in the dear cause of Zion. Our hearts are not as they should be before God. Our prayer is that the Lord may speedily revive his work. Death has also been among us, and cut down some with whom we had long taken sweet counsel. The venerable Oliver Starkweather, whose kindness and liberality have made many hearts leap for joy, has finished his work on earth, and entered upon that "rest which remains for the people of God." The loss of his company, counsel and support is deeply felt. A number of sisters, who were greatly beloved in the Lord, have also been called away from the communion on earth, to a closer and more holy union with kindred spirits in heaven."

WARWICK AND COVENTRY.—This church, which the last year was so highly favored with divine influences, has experienced a decline. They remark:

"For several years, we have enjoyed a state of uninterrupted prosperity. But for the year past, few have been the accessions to our number. Perhaps God has seen that we have been lifted up by that prosperity, and has withdrawn the special influences of his grace from among us, to humble us before his throne, and make us feel that it is not by might nor power, but by his Spirit only, that we can hope to prosper. We are very far, however, from being discouraged, or cast down. God is the *rock* of our salvation, and *his promise* the ground of our hope. We shall yet praise him; for our faith stands not in the wisdom of men, but the *power of God*. And although we have not been permitted to enjoy any special season of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, yet our peace has been like a river, and uninterrupted harmony has prevailed in the church.

"Our congregation still is large, attentive and solemn; and we hope the day is not far distant, when we shall again behold the triumphs of the cross of Christ among us, and witness the displays of sovereign grace in subduing the hearts of his people to the obedience of the faith, and in melting the marble hearts of *impenitent sinners*, to that repentance which is unto life."

"The Temperance cause is advancing among us with slow but steady progress towards the final consummation of its object—and we trust our constant prayer to God is, that the great principles of virtue, temperance and religion may universally prevail."

SECOND TIVERTON.—Still destitute of a Pastor, but have had preaching most of the time for the last six months.

PAWTUCKET.—Nothing particularly interesting. They are in want of a Pastor.

FIRST BRISTOL.—A weak and feeble flock. Being again without a Pastor, they are supplied with preaching by the students of Brown University.

NEW-BEDFORD.—This has been among the favored churches of the Association, a precious and powerful revival having been experienced by them.

"When last we addressed you, it was to mention our low estate, and our prayers for better times. We had, during the former year, settled a watchman on the walls of Zion, and were ready to listen to his entreaty, "*Brethren, pray for us.*" The encouraging increase of our congregation, last autumn, induced us to make

an enlargement of our Meeting House. In the early part of the winter, the spiritual state of the church was low, and the hearts of many trembled for the ark of God. On New Year's day, we appointed a prayer meeting in the forenoon, which was far better attended than we expected; the spirit of prayer was poured out, and the remainder of the day was devoted to supplication. From that period our meetings became solemn and frequent. A sunrise meeting and evening interviews were constantly held for several months. The interest displayed by the church was soon felt in the society, and inquirers were found asking, what shall we do to be saved? A very striking feature in the work of grace, was that deep conviction of sin which marked the inquirers. Of nearly all who have testified that with God there is mercy, it may be said emphatically, that by *the law was their knowledge of sin*. We heard far more of the holiness than of the mercy of God. Some of the conversions unconsciously displayed the sovereignty of God in the means of conviction and the manner of deliverance, and we were forced to repeat the truth, that God was the God of salvation.

"Our gratitude was excited by the goodness of God in selecting so many trophies of grace from among the children of our members. Few of our families have been unblessed, and in many instances heads of households have unitedly gone forward in the way of God's commands. In our Sabbath School, more than 20 teachers and children bowed to the obedience of truth. During the revival, we had no protracted meeting; we were kindly visited by Mr. Hague, whose services for two days were highly appreciated. Although the services of the sanctuary were for many months unusually arduous, we would be grateful that our pastor was sustained, and his health graciously continued. Our baptismal scenes were solemn, and were sanctified by God the Spirit as the means of conviction. We are glad to state that the additions to our church were not only a source of pleasure at the period of their union, but continue to afford us unabated joy; we see them at our solemn feasts, and in all the ways of Zion, and believe that they are training up the use of ordinances for the service of the upper temple. Two of our young brethren are in Waterville College, pursuing studies in reference to the Gospel Ministry.

"The expense of enlarging our house and procuring an organ, have hindered us from making our accustomed efforts for various objects of benevolence, but during the past year we have contributed \$120 for education purposes—25 for a building case—20 for home missions, and 20 for the S. S. Union. Our missionary and tract operations are receiving their usual attention from our sisters. A Young Men's Education Society has been formed under very pleasing auspices."

SHARON.—During the year past this church has enjoyed without interruption the preached gospel. "A protracted meeting held in May last, proved a season of special refreshing to the church, and was followed by a few cases of conversion. We rejoice again to assure you that we continue to be strongly attached to the good old doctrines of the Bible." They have asked for and received a dismission to the Old Colony Association.

SECOND TAUNTON.—Have been in a low and tried condition, but appearances look more encouraging. Their present pastor is Rev. Wm. G. Trask.

SOMERSET.—"As a church we continue in the faith, and are not moved away from the hope of the Gospel which we have received. And though we are among the least of the Churches which compose this Association, we have been favored to maintain our standing as a plant in the Lord's vineyard. We have stated preaching on the Sabbath, with conference and prayer meetings in the week time. In the cause of temperance we are not backward; in this we are unanimously agreed. The influence of our Temperance Society is visible to all. Our merchants and retailers voluntarily abandoned the traffic in ardent spirits, some two or three years ago, and the town, at their last annual meeting, passed a vote of more than three to one against approbating licenses. But concerning spiritual things, we mourn over our leanness, and have abundant reason to pray, O Lord revive thy work, and to say brethren, pray for us."

DIGHTON.—Nothing peculiar has taken place in this church. "Our Temperance Society exerts a happy influence upon community."

THIRD PROVIDENCE.—"We have no glad tidings of the out-pouring of the Spirit to communicate; the Lord, however, has granted us some pleasant seasons,

and given us renewed proof that his mercy and faithfulness never fail. We are doing something to promote the universal spread of religion; and our prayer at the throne of grace is, that the Lord would revive us again, and have mercy upon sinners in the midst of us. We are at peace among ourselves—united in the general and particular doctrines of our denomination, and are built, we trust, upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ, himself being the chief corner stone."

ARKWRIGHT AND FISKEVILLE.—This church has been somewhat refreshed by a revival, during the early part of the year, and they have been enabled to erect a meeting house. General prospects more encouraging than heretofore.

CUMBERLAND HILL.—Though without a Pastor, they have been supplied with preaching the greater part of the year. The cause of temperance is flourishing at this place. "We are anxiously looking forward to the time when we shall be able to secure the labors of a faithful and efficient pastor. We are situated in the midst of an extensive field for usefulness. The inhabitants are respectable and wealthy—abundantly able to support a minister, and some of them begin to manifest a *willingness* to do for this object according to their ability."

DARTMOUTH.—Nothing particularly interesting has occurred the past year.

VALLEY FALLS.—This church has also experienced the refreshing dews of heavenly grace to some extent. "Although we are still destitute of a regular pastor, and have been for the year past, yet, the Lord has been much better to us, than were our fears, at the commencement of the year. We have been regularly supplied, by brethren from college, whose labors the Lord seems to have owned and blessed. We have had the privilege of frequently visiting the banks of our American Jordan; and there, to see the willing converts follow the footsteps of their Redeemer into the liquid grave; and, 'coming up out of the water,' have gone on their way rejoicing. We think, that we have known and felt, how good and how pleasant it is, for brethren to dwell together in unity.—When we compare our present situation and prospects, with what they were at the commencement of the year, we are constrained to say, the Lord hath done great things for our little, feeble band; and to his name be all the glory."

They greatly need a meeting house, and hope soon to be able to erect one.

WOONSOCKET FALLS.—This church is located in a very flourishing factory village of 3000 souls. They have a new meeting house, which was opened for worship in April last. There is but one other meeting house in the place, and could they obtain a suitable pastor, the field for usefulness would be extensive.

WICKFORD.—"This church was constituted by a council of brethren, delegated by other churches for this purpose, on the 7th of August last. When constituted, it consisted of fifteen members of regular standing, from other churches, among whom there existed a happy union of sentiment, and the most cordial feelings of heavenly love and Christian kindness."

NEW SHOREHAM.—This church is situated on Block Island. It has been heretofore connected with the Stonington Union Association, from which it was dismissed to this the present year. The church is laudably engaged in the temperance reform, and there is on the Island, a Temperance Society of 200 members.

NOTE.—The committee who were appointed to confer with bro. Wayland as to the Circular Letter, have reported to the Clerks of the Association, that unavoidable circumstances make it impossible that it should be furnished. Though this is very much to be regretted, yet it is hoped that the additional amount of religious intelligence given in the extracts from the letters, above what has been usual, will give to the Minutes at least their usual interest.